

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S:FVORTIZ:GK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 232338 TOSEC 140045

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 9713 ACTION SECSTATE SEP 30.

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 9713

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR UNGA EG IS

SUBJECT: FAHMY ON PROPOSAL FOR INFORMAL MULTILATERAL MEETING

REF: STATE 231016

1, WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, I CONVEYED POINTS
MADE REFTTEL IN YOUR BEHALF. FAHMY WAS APPRECIATIVE
AND SAID HE HAD SUSPECTED YOUR INITIATIVE HAD SOMETHING
TO DO WITH SOVIET PARTICIPATION. HE PICKED UP
THE POINT ON GROMYKO'S NEGATIVE COMMENTS TO YOU RE
RECONVENING GENEVA AND NOTED THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO
GROMYKO'S RECENT UNGA SPEECH CALLING FOR GENEVA. HE
WONDERED IF THERE ARE SOME NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE
SYRIAN FRONT WHICH MAY HAVE CAUSED A SOVIET CHANGE OF

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HEART.

2. FAHMY SEEMED PUZZLED ABOUT SYRIAN ATTITUDES. ADVERTING TO OUR EARLIER EXCHANGES ABOUT A POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND ASAD SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, HE ASKED IF THIS IDEA HAD INITIALLY BEEN FLOATED BY THE SYRIANS OR BY US? IS IT WE OR THEY WHO ARE TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO TRY TO GET SOME MOVEMENT? I REMINDED HIM THAT WE HAVE SEVERAL TIMES, BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, TOLD THE SYRIANS WE ARE READY TO TRY TO HELP TO WORK OUT SOMETHING ON GOLAN IF THE PARTIES WISH. I AGAIN INVITED HIS ATTENTION TO ALLON'S STATEMENT, AFTER THE LATTER'S MEETING WITH YOU, THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO HOLD SUCH TALKS WITHOUT CONDITIONS. I THOUGHT WE HAD SHOWN IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE OUR DESIRE TO ENCOURAGE SUCH TALKS.

3. FAHMY AGREED, BUT NOTED SYRIAN PUBLIC INSISTENCE THAT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN OFFERED ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON GOLAN. HE WAS SURE THE SYRIANS ARE ENGAGING IN SOPHISRY, BUT IT IS THIS PUBLIC SYRIAN DENIAL WHICH CREATES PROBLEMS FOR THE EGYPTIANS. SADAT AND HE HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID HE WAS ASSURED DURING SECOND DISENGAGEMENT TALKS THAT USG WOULD ALSO TRY TO MOVE AHEAD ON SYRIAN FRONT. I TOLD HIM HE WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT ON THIS POINT. AS HE KNEW, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE THE POINT OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP IF THE PARTIES WISH.

4. FAHMY SAID HE FULLY BELIEVES WHAT WE HAVE TOLD EGYPTIANS, BUT REMAINS PUZZLED ABOUT SYRIAN ATTITUDES. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE REPORT ON YOUR MEETING WITH KHADDAM. THIS MAY ENABLE HIM TO COME UP WITH SOME HELPFUL IDEAS ON HOW YOUR INFORMAL MULTILATERAL CONCEPT MIGHT BE WORKED OUT. THE SYRIANS, IN HIS VIEW, DESPITE THEIR APPARENT STANDOFF ATTITUDE, WANT A SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND DO NOT WANT TO CLOSE THE DOOR TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PERTINENT TALKS TO ACHIEVE ONE.

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